

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



## AS I SEE IT

### Identifying NCDPI's Core Values - Bill Harrison

July 20, 2009

In the early days of my work as State Board of Education Chairman and CEO, one of the first activities I led with the Department of Public Instruction's leadership group was the development of a vision statement and core values to guide our work and expectations. After several sessions of feedback and sharing with the entire Department, I'm ready to provide these statements to you in a final form, listed below.

But, first, a few words of explanation and thanks. I appreciate everyone who took the time to carefully consider our vision and values statements. Your input was also carefully accepted and considered by the Department leadership team. While we accepted many of your edits and ideas, we did not accept them all. It was not possible to accept and incorporate all of your changes and emerge with a coherent document. But, what we do have, I believe, is a powerful statement to guide our work together.

It is important for you to know why we did this work as one of the first activities of my term here. Some ask, what difference does this make? I've done this kind of thing before; why do it again? Those are good questions. The best answer I can give you is this: you deserve to know - as NCDPI staff members and as NCDPI customers - what will guide our work together under my leadership. We could have dispensed with this and simply gone about our day-to-day tasks. But, clearly spelling out our expectations and the values that support our decisions and priorities helps us all do a better job.

NCDPI Agency Vision and Core Values.

The NC Department of Public Instruction is a service organization. We are focused on providing educational opportunity for students in pre-kindergarten through high school. We are united in our vision: to be North Carolina's first choice for service, information and innovative learning solutions.

This means that in our core values:

- The *customer* comes *first*..
- We treat our customers and colleagues with *respect*. We value their contributions and ideas.
- We work with *integrity*, understanding that trustworthiness and courage on behalf of students are foundations of our success.
- We believe we will never be finished learning or adapting to change. *Continuous improvement* is one of our strongest values.
- We take *responsibility* for our health and well-being and for being fully prepared and engaged in carrying out our professional responsibilities and duties. We expect to be held *accountable* for the quality of our work.

Bill Harrison, Chairman  
State Board of Education